

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 7, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GALLINGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 5854.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5854) granting a pension to John Caster, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives hereto appended is adopted, and the passage of the bill is recommended.

HOUSE REPORT.

John Caster enlisted July 25, 1861, as a private in Company A, Thirty-third Missouri Enrolled Militia Cavalry, and served with such organization until November 25, 1864, when discharged.

He filed a claim for pension July 18, 1874, alleging gunshot wound of left thigh received in battle near Camden Point, Platte County, Mo., July 3, 1864.

The War Department records fail to show that the organization to which claimant belonged was ever mustered into the United States service, and the claim for pension was rejected on that ground and on the ground that the evidence in the case completing it was not on file before July 4, 1874, the claim having been completed November 10, 1874, as shown on the brief of the claim.

The adjutant-general of Missouri says the muster-in roll shows John Caster, private, Company A, Thirty-third Enrolled Missouri Militia, mustered in at Breckenridge, Mo., July 26, 1862. The Third Auditor reports that John Caster, jr., is borne upon the rolls of Company A, Thirty-third Enrolled Missouri Militia, as enrolled July 26, 1862, ordered into service September 26, 1864, and returned from duty November 24, 1864.

Maj. S. P. Cox, of same regiment, testified (filed September 5, 1890) that he was present when John Caster received wound, and saw the wound soon after he was shot, July 3, 1864, in left hip, in a battle with bushwhackers under Thraillkill and Thornton.

Capt. Daniel Lebo filed affidavit December 7, 1874, that he was in command of Company A, Thirty-third Enrolled Missouri Militia, at the time, and John Caster received a gunshot wound in left hip. John V. Johnston and Levi M. Mullins, comrades, also testify to the incurrence of the wound as alleged.

Dr. William H. Folmsbee, Gallatin, Mo., filed affidavit November 10, 1874, that he treated John Caster for gunshot wound of left hip, received while a member of Company A, Thirty-third Missouri Enrolled Militia.

Dr. McDonald testified March 21, 1896:

"I have known John Caster about fourteen years, and treated him for catarrh and heart affection. The heart's action very weak and irregular; slight exercise produces dyspnoea. He suffers from nasal catarrh, which has affected and changed his voice. He has had gunshot wound of left hip, at junction of sacrum and ilium; the ball passed downward in an oblique direction and out at a point 10 inches from point of entrance, causing adhesion at both points and limitation of motion of leg as result of injury to glutei and femoral muscles. The disabilities have been permanent since I have known him, and totally disable him for performing manual labor of any kind."

The committee therefore recommend the passage of the bill.